

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following remarks, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, are respectfully requested.

**I. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

**A.** Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Della Valle et al. (WO 96/18600).

**B.** Claims 2-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Della Valle et al.

The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully traversed.

Della Valle et al. discloses amides of carboxylic acids with amino acids or glycosamines, which are used as active agents for the treatment of certain pathologies. In addition, the reference discloses pharmaceutical compositions comprising the amides in combination with excipients (*see, e.g.*, page 51, lines 8-10, and claim 33), and transdermic administration of the compositions. However, Della Valle et al. does not teach or suggest a combination of amides with percutaneous absorption accelerators.

In particular, excipients are not percutaneous absorption accelerators. Furthermore, the Examiner has stated that Della Valle et al. discloses an amide in combination with ethanol. Applicants respectfully submit that this is not correct. Instead, the reference examples teach using ethanol for washing the precipitated crude product in preparation of a glucosamine. However, neither ethanol nor isopropanol are components of the amide composition. In addition, methanol is used merely as an eluent for TLC to identify a glucosamine.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Della Valle et al. does not teach or suggest a composition comprising amides in combination with ethanol or any other percutaneous absorption accelerator. Accordingly, the compositions recited in the present claims are novel and nonobvious over the cited reference, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

**II. Conclusion**

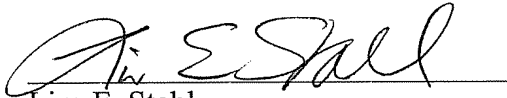
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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